

To return to Plugget's Wood, where I saw what I believe to have been a veritable *livornica*. The moth gone, we ploughed on through the jungle towards a clearing where oaks stood invitingly, and as clouds were blowing up and dusk was now falling rapidly I forged ahead in order to get the sugar on before it was too dark to see. There were no paths in the wood apart from the main drive—or if there were they had been obliterated by the rose-bay—and once or twice, walking blindly through the dense pack of *Epilobium*, I stumbled into a runnel and narrowly escaped falling. I should have taken warning by this, but—I wanted to get the sugar on. A moment later, when I was out of sight of my companions, I suddenly trod on air and fell, and fell heavily, into a ditch which, I was afterwards told, was three feet deep. What exactly happened then I do not remember, for I was considerably shaken, but the pain in one leg was so severe that I cried out. It was a minute or two before I was found; for it was impossible in the gloom to see where I lay and the willow-herb had closed over my head. I was pulled out and stood upright, on one leg. It was a dreadful journey back through that pathless jungle, an arm round the neck of each companion, their arms about my waist; for at every step the willow-herb had to be trampled down lest we all three fell into another ditch. But the edge of the wood came in sight at last, and the waiting car, and so the old man was brought home and put to bed.

And now my field work is over, for this year at all events. So take warning by the Old Moth-Hunter, and when you explore fresh woods let your prospecting be done, in the first place, by day. And where *Epilobium angustifolium* holds the field, *watch your step*. Above all, do not go sugaring in fresh woods *alone*. For if I had been unaccompanied that night, there might have been a paragraph in this Journal beginning "We regret to announce . . ."

DIPTERA BRED FROM FLOWER-HEADS OF COMPOSITAE.

By M. NIBLETT.

I have for several years examined flower-heads of the Compositae for insect larvae, and during 1945 examined some thousands of these. In them I found numerous larvae of Lepidoptera, Coleoptera and Diptera, but propose confining my remarks to the last Order.

Napomyza lateralis, Flin.—During July I found at Effingham Common, Worms Heath, and near Headley, flower-heads of *Matricaria inodora*, L., with yellowish puparia in the receptacle; they appeared to be attached to the inner surface with one end close to a hole, presumably prepared by the larva before pupation for the exit of the fly. A number of these flies emerged between 30.vii and 15.viii.45. Again in early September I found at Denbies, Dorking, a few flower-heads with whitish larvae in them; from these the flies emerged between 14.ix and 20.ix.45. It would appear that there is more than one brood a year.

Pegohylemyia sonchi, Hardy.—Among numerous flower-heads of *Sonchus arvensis*, L., examined near Headley on 2.viii.45, several were found to contain a single larva at the base of the seeds; these went into earth provided and one fly emerged 24.vi.46.

Pegohylemyia jacobaeae, Hardy.—During 1945 I made a large collection of flower-heads of *Senecio jacobaea*, L., from Riddlesdown, Ranmore Common and Farthing Down, but very few contained the larvae of this species; they were at the base of the seeds and left to pupate in earth, the flies emerging* between 20.iv and 1.vii.46. I had previously bred this species from *S. erucifolius*, L., from Shalfleet, Isle of Wight and Epsom Common. The heads were collected in August and September.

Heterostylus piliferus, Zett.—Flower-heads of *Hieracium sabaudum*, L., from Boxhill in July, had several white larvae of this species in each; as the heads dried the larvae left them. Upon being placed on moist earth they burrowed into it with great rapidity; the flies emerged between 20.iv and 5.vi.46. In July 1945 I found near Headley, flower-heads of *Picris hieracioides*, L. with larvae of this species in them. These behaved in exactly the same manner and the flies emerged between 23.vi and 25.vii.46.

Heterostylus atomarius, Schnbl. nec Zett.—Flower-heads of *Hieracium vulgare*, Tausch., each containing a single white larva, were found at Epsom Downs and Ranmore Common in June; the larvae left the heads and pupated in earth, the flies emerging in April and May of the following year. I examined many flower-heads but found very few larvae.

Heterostylus pratensis, Mg.—*Leontodon hispidus*, L., is another plant of which I have examined many flower-heads with but meagre results. At Boxhill on 17.vii.45, several were found with the whitish larvae of this species in them at the base of the seeds; these went to earth and on 10.vi.46 two flies emerged.

Palloptera umbellatarum, Fln.—In September and October I was collecting galls of *Euribia stylata*, Fab., from flower-heads of *Cnicus lanceolatus*, Scop., when I noticed that there were numerous small, whitish larvae below the gall; further investigation showed that nearly every galled head had a number of these larvae in the same situation. I then opened numerous heads which had no gall in them; in only two cases did I observe any larvae in them. I placed the larvae I had disturbed on damp earth; this they entered fairly rapidly. The remaining heads were not opened and the larvae gradually left them, some, however, not before the beginning of November. Further galled heads examined in December contained no larvae but showed evidence of having been inhabited by them. Heads containing these larvae were found at Farthing Down, Fetcham Downs, Epsom Downs and Mickleham Downs. The flies emerged between 23.v and 31.v.46.

Palloptera parallela, Lw.—The Thistle, *Carbina vulgaris*, L., is a plant whose flower-heads I have frequently examined hopefully for larvae, but have met with little success. At Walton Heath on 21.ix.45, a head cut open showed that it contained numerous smallish, white, dipterous larvae, so a few more heads from plants in the near vicinity were gathered and the cut head was found to contain forty-two larvae among the seeds. These were placed on earth, which they entered with little hesitation; the remaining heads were placed in a jar and by 15.x.45 all the larvae had left them and were bunched together in a tangled mass; they were removed and placed in another jar containing damp earth. This they seemed very reluctant to enter, crawling up the

